7/8/88

Dear Mike,

The current water problem reminds me of what the paper saw fit not to publish and still hasn't, that the city sold its original watershed without competitive bids and at considerably less than the parcel would have brought if the reason for selling it was to get the best deal for the city that was possible.

This was undenied when I stated it at the county zoning board of appeals hearings at which your reporter was present and it was included in what I sent and/or gave you.

So, aside from the nature of the reporting and the character of the deal under which the city lost that source of precious water - precious without a shortage because the area is growing so fast - there is the wisdom of the whole thing.

Why without inference of the shady deal that exists would the city sell any part of its watershed when it is growing as fast as Frederick is?

You may not have liked my reference to shopping-news journalism so I tell you that if your reporter intended anything better there was a solid month when the gross and deliberate violations of the board's conditions were violated daily and there has not been a week since in which this was not repeated.

With all the controversy over the breaking of the zoning code this is not news?

No competent reporter would have had even the slight curiosity required for a phone call?

And despite the obvious improprieties there still is no news when there is a water shortage?

Sincerely,

Harold

Harold Weisberg